Mr. Paul Wilson
50 Ocean St.,
Nahant, MA 01908

8/29/98

Dear Mr. Wilson,

In your letter of August 26 you state you are asking those who were alive then and are listedx in Who's Who where we were when President Kennedy was assassinated. That really requires that I explain whwy anyone listed in Who's Who would be in such a place at that time and how he then learned of the great and tragic event.

I was one of the many in the military in World War II who dreamed of freedom and intellectual indepdndence by becoming a farmer.

I became a poultry farmer and I was gathering egss when the President was killed. (My wife was the national chicken cooking champion in 1956 or 1957, the chicken queen for a year; I was the national barbecue king of 1959; and two years later we won first and third prises in a national contest for raising chickens.) I recall clearly exactly where I was in which of out chickens houses the moment I heard the first report on the radio.

You may wonder what I was doing with a radio in a noisy place slike s chicken-house, noise except at night.

When portable transistor radios were first available, in late 1962 or early 1963 Washington, D.C.'s then only good music station had a contest, in 25 words or less the most usual place I hear the goos-music sttion. It happens I had an old radio I placed in our main henhouse and despite the clamor the chickens seemed to like it. So that I listened to good music in the hen house wong that transistor radio, the first I ever saw. It fit on my belt and had an earphone that eliminated much of the noice. I was midway through the first of the four pens of our main henhouse when the broadcast was interrupted for the first flash by Merriman Smith of the United Press.